

## REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested. No amendments to the claims or specification are being made in this response.

In the present Official Action, Claims 1-26, which are present in the above-captioned application, have been subjected to a restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 as follows:

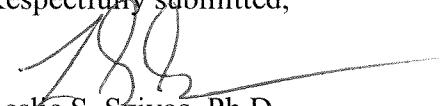
- I.       Claims 1-25, drawn to a method of fabricating a semiconductor device, classified in Class 438, subclass 235; and
- II.      Claim 26, drawn to a semiconductor device, classified in Class 257, subclass 197.

As indicated, and in order to be fully responsive to the restriction requirement imposed in the present Official Action, applicants provisionally elect, without traverse, to prosecute the subject matter of Group I, i.e., Claims 1-25, and reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter in this application, i.e., Claim 26.

In response to the species restriction, applicants elect, without traverse, Species I, which is shown in FIGS. 1A-1H. Applicants observe that Claims 1-17 and 24 read on the elected Species.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement and provide an action on the merits with respect to all the claims present in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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